

Steering Committee Conference Call

June 21, 2012

Roll Call

Heather Parker, United States Coast Guard District 13 (USCG D13)
CDR Agneta Dahl, USCG Sector Puget Sound (SPS)
LT Johna Rossetti, USCG Sector Columbia River (SCR)
LCDR Kelly Thorkilson, USCG SCR
LCDR Lance Lindgren, USCG SPS
Linda Pilkey-Jarvis, Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology)
Sean Orr, Ecology
Don Pettit, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
Alice Drury, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
Josie Clark, United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
Tiffany Ban, TechLaw Inc.

Action Items:

- LT Rossetti : Follow-up with Sandy Lane to make sure that the state office facility in Hood River has the internet.
- LT Rossetti: Check into using the Hood River library for the executive session or using the county office two days in a row.
- Don and LT Rossetti: Research the organizations in Hood River to find a co-sponsor and attendees for town hall meeting.
- Josie: Write up a summary about what the RRT/NWAC is and why local organization might want to collaborate with us
- Josie and Heather: Divide and assign sections of Chapter 9000 by July 3rd
- Linda: Send a list of the updates being worked on by ECY (outside of TFs) for the NWACP 2012 update, to Ms. Clark and Ms. Parker.
- Josie and Heather: Come up with a proposed agenda for August TF meeting and give some of the TFs specific time slots.
- Heather: Look at Survey Monkey results from last Annual Summit to see if format needs to be changed.
- Linda: Start looking for meeting space for Annual Summit in December (in Olympia area).
- Josie and Heather: Send out a "save-the-date" for the annual summit, for people to forward-on.
- Josie: Propose to the EPA by August 1st that we put a statement into the area plan with four to five things that they are committed to doing every year regarding Tribal outreach.
- LT Rossetti and Mr. Pettit: A draft agenda for the public session is due to Ms. Parker and Ms. Clark by August 31st.
- Don, LT Rossetti, Josie and Heather: Speak offline about Hood River town hall agenda.
- LT Rossetti and Linda: Work together to formulate a response to the Willapa Bay Oyster Growers Association.

October RRT/NWAC Meeting Logistics:

LT Rossetti went to Hood River on Monday to check out the county commissioner's meeting room at the county office. Rental of this room for the public meeting on October 25 would be free and would meet our needs. Bonneville Dam is being considered for the executive session. Sandy Lane is the contact person for the state office. D13 also has a Wi-Fi station that can handle up to four computers. We have been tentatively placed on the schedule at this facility and several other places as well, so LT Rossetti urged that we need to commit to a place. **Johna will follow-up with Sandi Lain to make sure that the facility has the internet.**

There was a discussion about holding the executive session at the Bonneville Dam, which is about an hour away from Hood River. Ms. Clark suggested starting the executive meeting later in the morning to allow everyone enough time to drive to the dam, but Mr. Pettit expressed concern that this area might not be the best location for a meeting. He stated that there are no services at Bonneville Dam. There is no food within several miles and Wi-Fi coverage may be an issue in the gorge.

It was suggested that both the public and executive meetings be held in Hood River. **LT Rossetti will check into using the Hood River library for the executive session. She will also check into using the county office two days in a row.** Everyone agreed that this may be easier.

It was noted that most hotels in the Hood River area offer the government rate, including the Columbia Gorge Hotel, Hood River Hotel and the Best Western.

Ms. Parker stated that there are a lot of active communities in Hood River, if we want to do an outreach session. Ms. Clark suggested reaching out to a specific organization to ask them if they would like to be a co-sponsor of the meeting. **Mr. Pettit and LT Rossetti agreed to research the organizations in the area.** Mr. Pettit pointed out that we would need another meeting room for this, and suggested the local fire department's new meeting room.

Ms. Clark agreed to write up a summary about what the RRT/NWAC is and why the organization might want to collaborate with us. She also suggested using a similar program to the one that was put on at the Seattle library back in February. Ms. Parker suggested asking the organization what topics they want to hear about.

Mr. Pettit reminded everyone that this outreach session would have to be a little more river focused, rather than marine focused. He recommended contacting the Columbia & Snake River Spill Response Initiative group and having a representative speak at the outreach session, as well as the public meeting.

Chapter 9000 Meeting Preparations

July 26, 2012 will be a one-day working session for the entire Steering Committee in Lacey, Washington, to do a complete review/overhaul of Chapter 9000 of the North West Area Contingency Plan (NWACP). Each Steering Committee member will be assigned one or more sections in this chapter, and the SC members will scan through the sections during that day, or possibly before they arrive, and determine whether: (1) this section should stay in the NWACP; (2) this section needs some significant

modifications/revisions; (3) where best to place it in the organization of the overall CH 9000. The goals for the day is to determine if each section is acceptable, or if it needs to be re-written and to all agree to overall new ordering/organization/numbering scheme for the entire chapter.

This chapter will also be re-numbered to house all of the operational pull-outs. The sections will be re-numbered so that the first number of the section would be 9, and the following numbers will correlate to which chapter the pull-out came from.

Ms. Clark emphasized that this meeting will not be group editing. Each person would be assigned their own section(s) and not with the purpose of line-by-line editing, but rather to do a quick overview for any major/critical errors, omissions, etc. LT Rossetti suggested assigning the sections ahead of time so that people can look at them before they arrive at the meeting. Mr. Pettit also suggested having the numbering scheme figured out before this session. He asked if it is even necessary for every to meet in person. Ms. Clark replied that in the past, when we have assigned “homework” like this, it hasn’t been completed.

Ms. Parker stated that she envisions this session to be like the Annual NWACP Summit last year. **She and Josie agreed to divide up and assign the sections by July 3rd.** On July 26, the meeting room will be open at 9:00 am for anyone who wants to show up early, but official work will start at 9:30 am, with the session ending at 3:00 or 3:30 pm.

Mr. Pettit asked if we have successfully parsed-out these sections into operations and policy before. Ms. Clark answered that chapters 1000, 2000 and 7000 have been divided this way.

Task Force (TF) Meeting in August

This will be a meeting with the TF Facilitators to have them walk through changes that they will be submitting for the NWACP. These changes are due to the SC on August 1st. The goal of this meeting is that we all understand what the changes to the plan are going to be.

Ms. Clark asked if we should establish specific times for each facilitator to come in, or if we should have them all commit to being at the entire meeting. Ms. Pilkey-Jarvis replied that some group facilitators might not want to sit through a whole meeting. She suggested that since many facilitators are on the SC, and that we should only schedule specific times for the groups that do not have facilitators on the SC. The TFs that will potentially have scheduled times will be: Cultural Resources, Wildlife, Places of Refuge (POR) and Derelict Vessels (since they probably will not have a plan update next year).

Ms. Clark stated that each facilitator should come to the meeting ready to brief us on their proposed language and why they are making changes. The proposed changes are due in writing on August 1st, so this will also allow about two weeks for the SC to scan them over before the meeting. She added that she is working on making sure the overhaul of chapters 1000 and 2000 will be briefed out at the meeting as well. This overhaul was started before Ms. Clark started maternity leave and was never quite completed. **Ms. Pilkey-Jarvis also agreed to send a list of the updates that she has been working on to**

Ms. Clark and Ms. Parker. Ms. Clark reminded everyone that August will be the internal review month for proposed changes and a draft plan needs to be ready to give to Ecology & Environment (E&E) at the end of August.

Ms. Clark and Ms. Parker will come up with a proposed agenda for this meeting and will give some of the TFs specific time slots.

Preparing for the December 13 NWACP Summit

There was a suggestion to put out a notice to stakeholders that might want to attend the summit so they can put it on their calendars. Ms. Parker agreed and stated that she felt the building that was used last year was too small. Ms. Pilkey-Jarvis added that the money problems with the RRT/NWAC meetings will also be a problem for the summit. There is potential to find state offices space that would be free to use, but somebody needs to start looking right away. Space will be needed for 6-7 break-out groups.

Ms. Parker asked about whether we want to alter the format of the meeting. **She agreed to go back and look at the feedback that was received on Survey Monkey, from the last summit.** Ms. Pilkey-Jarvis pointed out that one thing that was left out last year was going through the lessons learned from the previous year.

Ms. Clark stated that the first step in planning is to pick a city. Everyone agreed that the Olympia area would be the best option. **Ms. Pilkey-Jarvis agreed to start looking for a meeting space.**

Ms. Parker also suggested organizing a summit-planning meeting in September. This could just be a conference call, and it would be a good time to also discuss the October RRT/NWAC meeting agendas. This call was tentatively set for September 7, from 9-11 AM.

Ms. Parker and Ms. Clark will send out a save-the-date for people to forward on to others that might be interested in attending the summit. The save-the-date will prompt people to keep watching the RRT/NWAC website for more details.

Tribal Outreach Strategies

Ms. Clark asked the group about potential next steps regarding Tribal Outreach, or ways to coordinate. She reported that she received a list from Tim Dykstra of the US Army Corps of Engineers, about Tribal consortia that he knows of.

Ms. Parker stated that the message she got from the discussion at the last executive meeting is that some members of the RRT want to have an accounting of ways we regularly reach out to Tribal entities. Ms. Clark stated that she is worried about setting this up because when it was tried in the past for tracking general outreach, it did not work well.

Ms. Parker agreed and added that this type of outreach would be hard to track because it is unclear exactly what is officially considered outreach. If you attend a meeting where Tribal representatives are present and you speak to them about oil spills, does this count?

Ms. Clark reminded everyone that this was brought up at the last RRT meeting because EPA is receiving pressure from above to show what they are doing regarding Tribal engagement. She stated that she is worried that meeting the letter of the law and doing effective outreach are two separate things.

Mr. Pettit asked about what section of the plan this policy will be in. Ms. Parker replied that she will look into this, but it is not really a policy, just a statement. Ms. Clark stated that in chapter 1000 there are already some general statements regarding Tribal outreach.

Ms. Clark asked if there are already outreach materials that are specifically targeted towards the Tribes. CDR Dahl answered that there is not a set of policies that are specific to them, so there are no specific outreach materials for them. She added that there are brochures available, however, that are applicable.

Ms. Parker suggested that we should state in the NWACP, what we already do in regards to Tribal involvement. She stated that she likes the idea of outlining key things that we do involving Tribes. She added that we could always do more, but there is a lot already being done. We can even note which states have their own policies. CDR Dahl agreed and stated that we can already write up statements that show an active involvement, they are all just done by the agencies separately.

Ms. Clark stated that she will propose to the EPA that we put a statement into the area plan with four to five things that they are committed to doing every year. These are things that are already being done, so we will just be memorializing what we already do. **Ms. Clark agreed to have this done by August 1st.**

October RRT/NWAC Agendas

Ms. Clark and Ms. Parker have a list of potential topics for these meetings. This list includes:

- A brief-out from the exercise at the beginning of June
- A conversation about tar sands oil properties
 - Ms. Parker stated that Gateway Consultants might have something to say on this topic. She added that it would be valuable to hear from somebody who knows that is going through the pipelines, and has technical knowledge. Ms. Pilkey-Jarvis stated that it may be hard to get somebody to speak on this topic because nobody can say anything with certainty. Ms. Clark asked if anybody from academia might be knowledgeable on this topic, as they might not be as closed-up about it as industry. Mr. Pettit asked if the next meetings after the October meetings will be anywhere near Canada, and suggested getting somebody from Canada to speak about it at those meetings. It was agreed that this would be an appropriate topic for the public session, and it will be kept on the list. If a presenter cannot be found, it will be pushed to the spring meeting.

- A brief-out on the SEA Consulting event
 - This will be an executive session topic.
- Derelict vessels
 - There will be a case study on the Penn Cove incident, with discussion about the Washington Department of Natural Resource's program, updates from the USCG SCR TF, and a derelict vessels panel.
- A marine debris update
 - This will be on the agenda for the executive session since there is not a big marine debris concern in Hood River. USCG SCR will give some information about this in their sector brief during the public session.
- The information management model
 - This will include elements from the 2012 Sea River exercise. USCG SPS will have just completed the Conoco-Philips and Shell Exercises, so they can use all of these drills to show different ways of approaching information management. This will be covered during the public session.
- Pacific Strike Team
 - The Commanding Officer wants to do some outreach to touch base with everyone. The National Strike Force Coordination Center will be discussed, as well as an update given on the Western Response Resource List (WRRL).
- Tribal representative to speak about resources at risk
 - Mr. Pettit suggested an Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA) presentation by NOAA, or a Tribal Resources Protection presentation from Oregon's Historic Preservation office.

LT Rossetti and Mr. Pettit will speak with Ms. Parker and Ms. Clark offline about the town hall meeting agenda. LT Rossetti suggested having the Strike Team do a presentation there too, to show people "this is how oil spill response works in your area" and showcasing the Strike Team as a resource.

A draft agenda for the public session is due to Ms. Parker and Ms. Clark from LT Rossetti and Mr. Pettit by August 31st.

USCG SCR's Concerns with Shellfish Growers' Access during Spills

There are two different concerns regarding shellfish. One is from USCG SCR regarding concerns from Willapa Bay Shellfish growers that they might not have access to their property during an active spill response. The other is how shellfish growers and organizations can be assured of where they stand in terms of prioritization of protection and clean-up.

In May, LT Rossetti attended the Marine Resource Committee's meeting in Long Beach. She gave a presentation on USCG SCR. There was a representative there from the Willapa Bay Oyster Growers Association that expressed concern from the oyster and shellfish growing community about accessing the growing properties during a spill response or emergency. The representative stated that at one time, they were told that in order to go into their shellfish beds during a response in order to document

damages to their crops, they had to be trained as responders. They would like clarification on the USCG's position on immediate accessibility to their privately-held property, in the event of an oil spill. They would like to be able to document this for compensation.

Ms. Parker stated that she thinks this may be a misunderstanding, and that the USCG would not tell them that they could not access their own property. LT Rossetti agreed with this, but stated that she is unclear about what happened at past responses, such as New Carissa. Apparently, shellfish growers' access to their properties was delayed in this case. The growers are worried that if they do not get access in a timely fashion, documentation of the damage to their crops could be limited.

Ms. Parker suggested a phone call with the National Pollution Funds Center (NPFC) so that they can talk about the claims process, but LT Rossetti replied that the concern is not about the claims, it is about access. Ms. Parker stated that this is not her area of expertise in oil spills, but she thought a team was usually sent into collect data. She suggested that it would be helpful to put something in the NWACP about what people can expect in a situation like this.

Ms. Pilkey-Jarvis stated that she likes the idea of having a fact sheet to give to people that tells them what to expect. LT Rossetti reminded everyone that she has an obligation to get back to these people with an answer. She added that she likes the idea of working through a liaison officer on this, explaining the claims process, and coming up with a fact sheet. Her commander will want to run all of this through the legal department before anything is released. **Ms. Pilkey-Jarvis offered to work with her on putting together a response.**

Ms. Pilkey-Jarvis stated that the shellfish growers in Washington are very active and have an idea that there are conflicts in our area plan about shellfish resources. They think that we view shellfish resources as purely economic resources (as opposed to natural resources) and we may or may not develop a Geographic Response Plan (GRP) for their areas. Ms. Pilkey-Jarvis stated that she thinks the growers are going to put a comment on the RRT website that asks us to see shellfish as both economic and natural resources, so that they can be assured that we are prioritizing their shellfish. She added that she believes it would be good to mention something about shellfish resource priority in the NWACP. However, until the comment is actually received, the Steering Committee doesn't need to take any action.

Closing Comments

Ms. Clark reported that there is an RRT activation planned August 15 for a Kinder-Morgan drill, but that she and Ms. Parker are not available for this. She asked the group if this activation can be passed up. Ms. Pilkey-Jarvis suggested finding a different opportunity for an RRT activation. Everyone agreed.

Ms. Clark asked if we should be concerned with the Puget Sound Partnership Derelict Vessel effort. **Ms. Pilkey-Jarvis will follow-up with them**, but she does not think that what they do will be in conflict with what the Derelict Vessels TF is doing.

